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FORMS IN CONVEYANCING AND GENERAL LEGAL FORMS, COMPRISING PRECEDENTS FOR ORDINARY USE AND CLAUSES ADAPTED TO SPECIAL AND UNUSUAL CASES. With Practical Notes. By LEONARD A. JONES. Third Edition. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1892.

Mr. JONES has given many valuable works to the profession, and by no means the least useful of these is his "Forms in Conveyancing." The first edition of this work made its appearance about six years ago, and the demand for it was so great that the author was compelled to respond with a second edition. This has now been followed by a third, which, we are told in the prefatory note, contains more than 1400 forms, of which a little less than one-half are full precedents, and the remainder are general clauses not contained in the precedents. Over 200 forms have been added in this edition.

Mr. JONES is to be congratulated upon the success which has attended his effort "to adapt the book for general use by giving the local common forms of every State, and by gathering the general forms from a wide range." He is right in thinking that the book is national in its character and use. However desirable it may be in the opinion of "law reformers" to cut loose from precedents and forms in the domain of pleading, and thus to sacrifice uniformity to the taste (or lack of taste) of individual pleaders, the American Bar seems to be alive to the importance of adhering to approved forms of expression in conveyancing and in the drawing of contracts, and to the wisdom of making use of language the legal meaning of which has been made the subject of repeated judicial decisions. This is an encouraging sign. Perhaps the day is not far off when all that was really good in the pleading precedents will be collected by some such skillful hand as that of Mr. JONES, so that once more it will become reasonably certain that a declaration in assumpsit for labor done will be substantially the same in form in Maine as in Florida.

The precedents in the work before us are not cumbered with mere technicalities, and they are not complicated by matter which is nothing more than surplusage. It may be said of them all that they are couched in language which is scientifically exact and accurate, and that in almost every instance they have been made as simple and as brief as possible. Of course, Mr. JONES cannot find as much scope for vigorous language in the drawing of a conveyancing precedent as is found in the editorial columns of his periodical, our esteemed contemporary, the *American Law Review*, when that publication thinks proper to attack the AMERICAN LAW REGISTER AND REVIEW for an alleged appropriation of its name. It is interesting to note, however, that the versatility of the man enables him to do equal justice to two such dissimilar pieces of work.

We heartily commend this book to our readers as an invaluable addition to the office library.

G. W. P.